



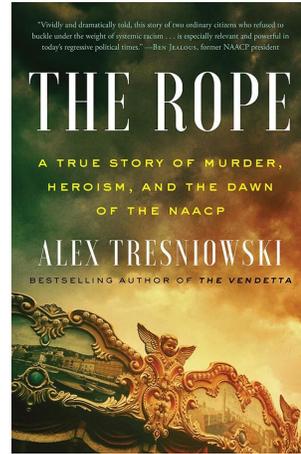
National Archives *at Kansas City* Newsletter

Upcoming Virtual Programs at the National Archives

The National Archives is continuing to offer a full slate of public programs in February. An extensive list can be found [here](#). Below are several highlights on a variety of topics. All programs are scheduled according to either Central or Eastern Standard Time.

The Rope: A True Story of Murder, Heroism, and the Dawn of the NAACP

On **Tuesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. ET**, the National Archives will host **Alex Tresniowski** for a discussion of *The Rope*. In November of 1910, in Asbury Park, NJ, 10-year-old Marie Smith was brutally murdered. After days of investigation, Asbury Park and county officials were at their wits' end in their attempt to pin the crime on two suspects, one White, one Black. *The Rope* tells the remarkable true-crime story of the murder of Marie Smith, the dawn of modern criminal detection, and the launch of the NAACP. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



Migrant Farm Workers and the Evolution of Farm Labor Programs in the United States

On **Wednesday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. ET**, the National Archives will feature staff archivist **Gabrielle Hutchins** for a lecture on *Migrant Farm Workers and the Evolution of Farm Labor Programs in the United States*. Hutchins will discuss federal records documenting migrant farm workers' participation in farm labor programs in the United States. By examining records in the Bracero, H-2A guest worker programs and other related record groups, we can identify their stories from 1942 to the present. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).

Spinning the Globe: The History and Legacy of the Harlem Globetrotters

On **Friday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. ET**, the National Archives will host a panel discussion on the Harlem Globetrotters. Originally all-male and all-African American, the team has since recruited women and persons of Asian and European descent. Drawing on National Archives records, this panel discussion will focus on the history and legacy of the Harlem Globetrotters. Joining us for the discussion will be two current players - **Fatima "TNT" Lister** and **Charles "Handles" Franklin** - former player and coach **"Sweet Lou" Dunbar**, and **Ben Green**, author of *Spinning the Globe: The Rise, Fall, and Return to Greatness of the Harlem Globetrotters*. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



Left: President and Mrs. Ford meeting with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team on December 6, 1974. National Archives identifier 6829582.

February 2021

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Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

We Shall Do All We Can: African Americans and Food Conservation in World War One

The U.S. Food Administration was created in 1917 to organize food distribution, encourage conservation, and combat hoarding during World War One. Created with a hierarchy of federal, state, and county administrations to implement the federal food program, the system appealed heavily to American's sense of duty, patriotism, and self-sacrifice to voluntarily serve the war effort and ensure U.S. soldiers and citizens of Europe did not go hungry. Future President Herbert Hoover was named director of the new agency. A community-based approach relied on leaders at the county level organizing and appealing to members of their locality to emphasize the importance of food conservation in the outcome of the war, and once the war ended, in rebuilding devastated nations and starving masses across Europe. By 1918, the war was drawing to a close, but the need for foodstuffs was still great. In order for conservation to be a success, the government needed support from every citizen, and African American leaders answered the call.

In the early twentieth century, legalized racial segregation created divisions and inequality for African Americans in all aspects of life, and the new U.S. Food Administration was no different. Working under the Missouri State Food Administration, the State Director for Work Among Negroes was responsible for marshaling local leaders and getting community members on board with the national goals of the U.S. Food Administration. Negro State Director for Missouri, James B. Coleman, implored the Deputy County Food Administrators in African American communities to "get all the people of our county studying, learning, comparing, and conserving on all foodstuffs at all times." Coleman saw the food conservation initiative as an "opportunity for the colored people of Missouri to show their patriotism...[and] actively take our place with other racial groups of our common country..." leaders in African American communities hoped to inspire participation in their communities that might demonstrate their dedication and patriotism to serve the war effort in earnest. Pastors, teachers, club presidents and other local leaders were tapped for support.

Efforts got off to a rocky start between Coleman and local African American leaders in Kansas City. A meeting at the Y.M.C.A. on October 4, 1918, went sideways and several days later Coleman sent a letter to leaders who were present taking responsibility for "any and all mistakes" made and revoked whatever measures or actions he had taken at the meeting to better equip leaders to approach the effort "unhampered." Coleman agreed he would take the group's advice and appoint two gentlemen recommended to him: Professor J.R.E. Lee, a respected educator to lead efforts among teachers and pupils, and the Honorable C.H. Calloway, Deputy Federal Food Administrator for Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri. A second letter from Coleman to Lee on October 9 requested "frank criticism" in order to find success and unity in the conservation effort. Coleman noted a "sharp feeling between classes" in Kansas City, an indication of the resistance met at the meeting of October 4. Being from Columbia, Missouri, Coleman may have unintentionally waded into and exacerbated simmering resentments between African Americans of different classes in the Kansas City area. Coleman wanted to set the situation right by asking Lee for his advice on how to rectify and move forward. In closing, Coleman emphasized "The prize for the Race is too great and good to lost by the slightest mistake on the part of any body." Coleman believed participation in food conservation efforts could uplift African Americans and help achieve equality.

A slate of activities was planned for the week of December 1, 1918, officially "Conservation Week" to rally support around the country. A message from Herbert Hoover read aloud in church services, clubs, and schools would inaugurate a week of activities to follow. Hoover's message would be followed by a Tuesday public meeting in each county to emphasize food conservation, Wednesday activities in Women's Clubs, and Friday activities for school children. The schedule ensured all could participate, from the young to the old, men and women. County directors were encouraged to report back and detail what programs they planned for the week. Coleman mailed a copy of Hoover's message along with a form to be filled out and returned by church pastors. The front side requested the number of attendees at each church service on Sunday, December 1: morning, afternoon, and evening. Many pastors chose to include a message on the back explaining support or numbers.

December 1, 1918, was a reschedule from the previously established "Conservation Week" of October 27, 1918. In addition to war and conservation, communities across Missouri were grappling with the flu pandemic of 1918. Pastors in numerous communities returned their forms citing the flu as a reason why attendance was low or null. Reverend W.H. Smith of Columbia returned his survey with a note reading "Dear Sir we have been Quarantined against having religious services in any church in this city for almost 7 weeks..." Churches in Osceola, Weston, and St. Louis also reported back that services had been cancelled due to influenza. In Gallatin, Missouri, Reverend E.T. Taylor explained

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR MISSOURI

Frederick B. Mumford

College of Agriculture

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

SUBJECT:

October 9th, 1918.

Prof. J. R. E. Lee,
Kansas City, Mo.

My Dear Sir;

I am herewith sending you a letter for your consideration and criticism. A copy of which if approved by you will be sent to each teacher present at the Y.M.C.A. October 4th.

I hope you will be frank enough to make any needed criticism which may come to your attention. Point out errors and suggest any changes which may bring us success.

After I have made my self clear and conditions for united efforts have come. I would then proceed as out-lined in that letter with you directing the educational forces. I do this because I find in Kansas City there is a very sharp feeling between classes.

I wish to find a strong man among the leading churchmen of your City. One who could interest and control the largest possible number of preachers, their churches and followers, so that the man and woman in the Ditch may be reached and helped. I had thought of Dr. Bacote. If he is the man let me know. If for any reason others are better suited than he name them. You know, I do not.

Please send me the names of the teachers present at the Oct. 4th meeting, together with the names of pastors of churches who may be interested in our kind of work.

Now Professor if this is not the way to clear the situation at Kansas City, I fondly hope you will tell me the way as it appears to you. The prize for the Race is too great and good to lost by the slightest mistake on the part of any body.

Believing you will be able to fully understand me I shall look forward with great hope expecting the help from you which I know you can so easily give.

I beg to remain most respectfully yours for Race uplift,

State Director for Work Among Negroes.

(Continued from page 2)

attendance was light and that "quite a number of people of Color is sick, and one lay corpse, which were the means of keeping some from services." Despite this added burden, many pastors responded enthusiastically assuring Coleman of their support for conservation. Reverend W.D. Williams of Keytesville, Missouri wrote "I will be pleased to comply with your demand along any line that pertains to your official office and duty." Pastor J.K. Ponder pledged "we shall do all we can to help your administration." Across the state, responses streamed back to Coleman confirming receipt of his message and promising to read Hoover's address to their congregations. A reply from Higginsville stressed that "Our people are patriotic and will continue to do all they can for the suffering nations mentioned in your message." These messages of support demonstrate that despite racism and marginalization by dominant society, African American citizens were committed to the war effort and ready to help when called upon. "We are in accord, and will do our part." More information about U.S. Food Administration records can be found in the National Archives [Catalog](#).

Right and below: Letter to Reverend E.T. Taylor regarding Mr. Hoover's message and Reverend Taylor's response in regard to those who were ill from influenza. Record Group 4, Records of the U. S. Food Administration, 1917-1920; Missouri State Food Administration; Correspondence of the State Director; National Archives Identifier 5336597.

Columbia, Mo. Nov. 25th, 1918.

Rev. E. T. Taylor
Galathea, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing herewith, two papers, one Mr. Hoover's message to Churches and other organizations, and the other, a letter from this office; each of which is self explanatory.

You are urged to see that these are clearly read and fully understood by your congregations.

At each meeting a careful count should be made. Please record the results as indicated below. On the Monday following, return this report in the enclosed envelop which requires no postage.

| | |
|---|----|
| Sunday Morning Dec. 1st, 1918, No. present..... | 19 |
| " Afternoon " " " " " | 12 |
| " Evening " " " " " " | 38 |
| Total number present for the day" | 62 |

Please write on the back of this report any other item of interest which the Department should know.

I am most faithfully yours for patriotism,

James B. Coleman
 State Director For Work Among Negroes.

Dec. 2, 1918.

Quite a number of people of color are sick, and one lay corpse, which were the means of keeping some from services Dec. 1.

E. T. Taylor

February Virtual Programs for Educators and Students

Join us online for **free** interactive learning programs! The National Archives and Presidential Libraries, National Park Service, Internet2 community, and cultural and historic organizations nationwide are proud to offer the annual Presidential Primary Sources Project, a series of free, standards-aligned, 45-minute interactive videoconferencing programs aimed at students in grades 4-12. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Standard Time. To sign up for any of the February sessions below, visit the Distance Learning [Sign Up Page](#).

February 2: **Planning for the Future—President Carter and the Energy Crisis**, *Carter Presidential Library*

February 4: **Pioneer Life in Indiana**, *Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial*

February 9: **The Great Communicator**, *Reagan Presidential Library*

February 11: **Women of Kansas: Beyond Dorothy**, *Eisenhower Foundation*

February 16: **Black Americans and the Great Depression**, *Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and FDR Library*

February 18: **Exploring President Kennedy's New Frontier Today**, *The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

February 23: **From "Accidental President" to Political Powerhouse: Comparing the first 100 Days of Theodore Roosevelt's First and Second Terms**, *Theodore Roosevelt Center*

February 25: **America's Presidents Through Portraiture**, *Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery*

Young Learners Program - Meet the Harriet Tubman on Thursday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. ET

Harriet Tubman is portrayed by **Daisy Century**, a talented teacher and inspirational actor with American Historical Theatre. Harriet Tubman's indomitable spirit, valor, and fearless actions as an abolitionist, Union nurse and spy, suffragist, and humanitarian continue to inspire children and adults today. A question-and-answer session with Harriet Tubman will follow the presentation. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).

National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of January 31, 2021)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries. While we are closed, we invite the public to explore our online resources by visiting www.archives.gov and viewing our [online exhibits](#) and [educational resources](#) and participating in our [Citizen Archivist Missions](#).

Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended until further notice. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us [@KCArchives](#). Follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.